

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3103

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CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 6092

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, RP, US

SUBJECT: MELCHOR ASKS FOR STUDY ON FUTURE OF U.S. BASES

1. A YOUNG SOCIAL SCIENTIST FROM HUDSON INSTITUTE NAMED WILLIAM H. OVERHOLT VISITED PHILIPPINES DURING PAST WEEK, ORIGINALLY IN CONNECTION WITH SEADAC SEMINAR ON LAND REFORM. HOWEVER, SINCE HE HAS GOOD PHILIPPINE CONNECTIONS (HIS WIFE COMES FROM PROMINENT MANILA FAMILY) AND SINCE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MELCHOR IS FASCINATED BY THINK TANKS SUCH AS HUDSON INSTITUTE, YOUNG OVERHOLT HAD SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS WITH MELCHOR.

2. MELCHOR HAS INFORMED ME THAT HE ASKED OVERHOLT TO ASK HUDSON INSTITUTE (PRESUMABLY UNDER DOD CONTRACT) TO DO STUDY ON FUTURE OF U.S. BASES IN PHILIPPINES "AFTER 1991." THEME OF STUDY WOULD PROJECT CONVERSION OF THESE BASES INTO QUASI-COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES WHICH WOULD CONTRCAT SERVICES TO U.S. (AND POSSIBLY OTHER NATIONS) FOR USE OF THEIR ARMED FORCES. FOR EXAMPLE, SUBIC WOULD BE CONVERTED INTO SHIPYARD FACILITY SIMILAR TO CONVERSION
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WHICH TOOK PLACE IN SINGAPORE. MELCHOR MENTIONED

POSSIBILITY OF JOINT VENTURE WITH SOME U.S. FIRM SUCH AS
NEWPORT NEWS SHIPBUILDING COMPANY.

3. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT SUCH PLANNING, IF UNDERTAKEN, WOULD
BE DESIGNED FOR APPLICATION IN PERIOD CONSIDERABLY PRIOR
TO 1991. THEREFORE, IN VIEW POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANCE OF
ANY OVERHOLD STUDY TO FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS ON BASE RIGHTS,
DEPARTMENT AND DOD MAY WISH BE IN TOUCH WITH HUDSON TO
DETERMINE WHAT, IF ANYTHING, OVERHOLT INTENDS TO DO ABOUT
THESE OVERTURES. SULLIVAN

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